

# The Link Conference 2017: speakers and topics

Thursday, Sept. 21 and Friday, Sept. 22, 2017

Regina, SK Delta Hotel

Theme: Exploring the relationship between animal abuse and domestic violence

Conference Goals:

- To provide information, education and resources related to the link between animal and human abuse.
- To foster relationships and partnerships to collectively address animal abuse and interpersonal violence.

<b>DAY ONE: Thursday, SEPT. 21</b>			
7:30-8:30 AM	Registration & Breakfast		
8:30 AM	Opening and welcome		
8:45 – 10:15 AM	<p><b>The Link: An overview of the interrelationship between human and animal violence</b></p> <p>Compelling links connect animal abuse and neglect with domestic violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, and elder abuse. An alarming number of women reporting that threats to their companion and farm animals prevent them from leaving abusive relationships; similar reports inform child abuse and elder abuse cases. Cruelty to animals frequently is both an indicator and predictor of interpersonal, family, and community violence, and is strongly linked to the criminal histories of juvenile offenders. In response, multidisciplinary efforts are actively re-examining the complex motivations</p>	<p><b>Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.</b></p> <p>Randall Lockwood has degrees in psychology and biology from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and a doctorate in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. After serving as Assistant Professor in the Psychology departments of Washington University and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, he held several positions at Humane Society of the U.S. for 21 years. In 2005 he joined the staff of ASPCA and is currently Senior Vice President for Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects. He has testified in more than 50 trials involving cruelty to animals or the treatment of animals in the context of other crimes, including dogfighting, child abuse, domestic violence and homicide.</p> <p>He was a founding member of the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association and is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He is a Fellow of the Oxford Center for Animal Ethics and the Denver University Center for Human-Animal Interaction and is Affiliate Assistant Professor in Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the University of Florida College of</p>	<p>Session Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants increase awareness of the link between human and animal abuse and considerations in service delivery for human services and animal welfare systems</li> </ul> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All attendees</li> </ul>

	behind acts of animal cruelty, advancing innovative public policy reforms, implementing programmatic improvements, and using animal-assisted interventions to work with the perpetrators and victims of violence.	Veterinary Medicine. He has also served as adjunct faculty at Canisius College and Duquesne University. He is co-author of <i>Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence</i> and <i>Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty: A Guide for Veterinary and Law Enforcement Professionals</i> , and author of <i>Prosecuting Animal Cruelty Cases and Dogfighting Toolkit: Addressing Dogfighting in Your Community</i> . His most recent book, with Abigail Perdue, is <i>Animal Cruelty and Freedom of Speech: When Worlds Collide</i> .	
10:15–10:45 AM	Refreshment break		
10:45 AM – noon	<p><b>Recognizing animal abuse</b></p> <p>Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS) investigates public complaints of animal neglect, cruelty and abuse. Executive Director Kaley Pugh will discuss the mandate of this new organization and its role in the enforcement of <i>The Animal Protection Act</i>. You will learn how Animal Protection Officers investigate and resolve reports of animal cruelty. What’s more you will learn how you can help protect pets and livestock from needless suffering.</p>	<p><b>Kaley Pugh, M.Sc., BSA</b>  <b>Executive Director, Animal Protection Services of Sask.</b></p> <p>Kaley Pugh attended the University of Saskatchewan, where she earned a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. She worked as a Lab Manager and Research Technician at the U of S, where she was involved in molecular genetic research in beef cattle. Her career experience also includes work in a variety of livestock operations, including hog barns, large horse boarding stables and chicken production facilities.</p> <p>As Executive Director of Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan, Kaley leads a team of animal protection officers working to protect the welfare of livestock and companion animals.</p>	<p>Session Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human service providers learn how to recognize animal abuse and what to do</li> </ul> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human service providers</li> </ul>
10:45 AM – noon	<p><b>Understanding and recognizing interpersonal violence and abuse</b></p> <p>This presentation will discuss what Interpersonal Violence (IPV) is, signs to look for in recognizing it, and how to respond to someone who is experiencing IPV. Kirsten will discuss all types of abuse, the cycle of abuse, the Power and Control wheel, and the reasons people may stay in an abusive relationship. There will be a discussion</p>	<p><b>Kirsten Lawson, Director of Member Programs and Services, Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Shelters (PATHS)</b></p> <p>PATHS delivers public and professional education on issues of violence against women. The provincial organization offers a communication and support network for domestic violence shelters and develops collective strategies to assist shelters in improving services and working on related issues.</p>	<p>Session Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal welfare providers learn how to recognize signs of interpersonal violence and abuse and what to do, including duty to report</li> <li>Protecting personal safety while helping others</li> </ul> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal welfare providers</li> </ul>

	of certain “red flags” that people may notice and important things to look for when you suspect there may be abuse going on, and how to have a difficult conversation with someone you may believe is being abused or is an abuser. Finally, a list of available resources in Saskatchewan and how to access them will be discussed.		
Noon – 1 PM	Lunch break		
1 PM – 2 PM	<p><b>Knowing the law: Legislative tools to protect animals and humans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tools to protect people: EIOs, victims’ assistance orders, warrants of entry</li> <li>Tools to protect animals: Custody and ownership, Animal Protection Act, Criminal Code</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kaley Pugh, Executive Director, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan</b></p> <p>The mission of Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS) is to ensure the humane treatment of animals through education and enforcement of animal welfare legislation where required.</p> <p><b>Rod McKendrick, Interpersonal Violence Specialist, Ministry of Justice, Victim Services</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Justice supports sexual assault services, outreach programs and residential services such as transition houses for women. The Victim Services program works closely with police and assists victims in the immediate aftermath of a crime or tragedy and throughout the criminal justice process.</p>	<p>Session Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased awareness and understanding of existing legislative tools that can be used in cases of abuse</li> </ul> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants</li> </ul>
2:00 PM- 2:30	Refreshment break		
2:30 PM- 3:30 PM	<p><b>The Human-Animal Bond in Theory and Practice</b></p> <p>The goal of this presentation is to explore the human-animal bond (HAB) and the interconnectedness of this bond with health benefits and risks both to humans and animals. The concepts of biophilia, zoonosis and zoeyia will be discussed. A focus on the evolution of animal assisted interventions (AAs) will be provided to illustrate the influence of the HAB.</p>	<p><b>Darlene Chalmers, PhD</b></p> <p>Darlene Chalmers is an Associate Professor at the University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work. Her interest in the human-animal bond relates to the important role of animals in social work practice. Dr. Chalmers co-chairs the Veterinary Social Work Initiative Committee; a partnership between the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the U of S and Faculty of Social Work at the U of R. Through this committee, she has been actively involved in the development of a veterinary social work position at the Veterinary College. Dr. Chalmers research interests include the human-animal bond, the use of animal-assisted interventions as an adjunct to therapeutic practice and social work and the</p>	<p>Session Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased understanding of the significance of the human animal bond (HAB)</li> <li>Awareness of the theoretical basis for the HAB</li> <li>Increased understanding of the role of the HAB in the provision of animal assisted interventions</li> </ul> <p>Target:</p>

	<p>Current examples of the inclusion of AAs in mental health and addiction supports will be shared. The importance of collaboration between human and animal welfare systems will be highlighted.</p>	<p>environment. Her community-based, participatory research is concentrated on animals and wellbeing at the individual and community level, with a focus on assisted interventions that include equine and canine species. She was a lead researcher on a team examining the use of equine-assisted learning as a treatment adjunct for volatile substance misuse with First Nations youth in Saskatchewan. Her team-based research is currently exploring the impact on inmates of animal assisted canine programs in federal correctional institutions offered through the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program and the PAWSitive Support Therapy Dog Program. Darlene has been directly involved in both initiatives as a facilitator, dog-handler and researcher. She has been a handler with a St. John Ambulance therapy dog for over two years and is a co-founder of the PAWSitive Support Therapy Dog Program. Dr. Chalmers is also a research associate with Audeamus, Inc., a Canadian service dog organization where she is currently in-training with her dog, Ruby. She is certified in Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning/Psychotherapy for Mental Health Professionals from Horse Spirit Connections in Ontario, Canada.</p>	<p>All participants</p>
<p>3:30 PM – 4:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Trauma, Secondary Trauma and the Need for a Self-Care Plan</b> The goal of this presentation is to provide an understanding of the effects of trauma on the body and brain. Traumatic reactions and their symptoms will be discussed. The effects of trauma on professionals will be discussed. Secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burn-out will be defined, as well as the need for self-care, emotional regulation, and self-awareness for professionals working in traumatic situations.</p>	<p><b>Dwayne Yasinowski, Provincial Education Coordinator, Regina Palliative Care Bereavement Centre</b> In his role as Provincial Education Coordinator, Dwayne works with professionals, volunteers, and organizations around the province to enhance existing grief and trauma services and supports for individuals and families and to grow new grief and trauma services where gaps have been identified.</p> <p>Dwayne has presented over 25 sessions to approximately 1500 professionals and volunteers on trauma, self-care, and creating a trauma informed care agency to a variety of not-for-profit organizations, government agencies, Justice and Community Justice officials and organizations through the province. In addition Dwayne researches, creates, and coordinates the grief and bereavement educational workshops that are offered by the RPCI Bereavement Centre to professionals, volunteers, and organizations who work with grieving and bereaved individuals and families throughout Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>Session Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased understanding of trauma informed care for service providers</li> <li>• Increased awareness of self care strategies for service providers</li> </ul> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants</li> </ul>

		Dwayne is also a member of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons. He previously worked as a government health researcher.	
4:30 PM	<b>Close of day 1</b>		

<b>DAY TWO: Friday, SEPT. 22</b>			
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration and breakfast		
8:30 AM	Opening and welcome		
8:45 AM-10 AM	<p><b>Implementing change / the next steps in addressing the Link</b></p> <p>This session explores the manifestations of the human-animal bond and its implications for domestic violence agencies. This presentation will describe the evolution of these programs; strategies being utilized; challenges; and recommendations for implementing programs to respond to the human and animal victims of domestic violence, child maltreatment, elder abuse and animal cruelty.</p>	<p><b>Dr. Randall Lockwood</b></p> <p>Dr. Lockwood is a senior vice president for the ASPCA and has a doctorate in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. He has studied the behavior between humans and animals for the past 30 years. Dr. Lockwood has worked with humane societies and law-enforcement agencies, serving as an expert on the interactions between people and animals. He has testified in numerous trials involving cruelty to animals and has spoken to such diverse and prestigious audiences as the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Japanese Animal Welfare Association and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.</p>	<p><b>Session Outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased understanding of possible solutions and approaches</li> <li>Increased awareness of approaches in other areas</li> <li>Cross reporting/cross training of service providers</li> </ul> <p><b>Target:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all participants</li> </ul>
10 – 10:30 AM	Refreshment break		
10:30 AM – noon	<p><b>Establishing a collaborative coalition to provide pet safekeeping and other assistance to domestic violence victims in Alberta</b></p> <p>Following the 2012 release of an Alberta-wide research study into how animals affect the decisions of domestic violence victims, the multi-disciplinary body known as the Alberta Alliance for</p>	<p><b>Tim Battle</b></p> <p>In his 18 years as the Alberta SPCA's Director of Education, Tim expanded the humane education program to reach thousands of classrooms across the province and worked extensively on spreading awareness of the connections between animal cruelty, domestic violence and child abuse. His efforts have resulted in an innovative, award-winning pet safekeeping program and other means to help domestic violence victims, as well as earning him a nomination for the prestigious Ernest C. Manning Innovation Award. An accomplished speaker, Tim has presented to numerous audiences in the fields of education, law enforcement, animal</p>	<p><b>Session Outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased awareness of multi sector partnerships that address human/animal issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Target:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants</li> </ul>

	<p>the Safety of Animals and People (AASAP) was formed. Composed of representatives from both animal-related and human service agencies, the AASAP advisory committee oversees the pet safekeeping program which helps victims leave abusive situations by providing care for their animals. The program has been recognized by both the national pet industry (2015 Summit Award for Collaboration) and human services (2016 Inspiration Award for Leadership in Family Violence Prevention). This session will demonstrate how a successful, sustainable program can be developed through a coalition of partners, and provide practical information for establishing pet safekeeping and related programs.</p>	<p>welfare, social services and the general public. Now retired, Tim continues helping vulnerable people and animals through involvement in several community organizations.</p>	
<p>10:30 AM – noon</p>	<p><b>Promising practices: Veterinary Social Work</b></p> <p>Veterinary Social Work (VSW) is an emerging area of social work practice that attends to the human needs that arise in the intersection of veterinary medicine and social work practice. Working within the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), the social worker is a member of a multidisciplinary team that provides a number of services for faculty, staff, students, and clients accessing the Veterinary Medical Centre. Join Erin to learn about the VSW program and activities associated with VSW practice, to compare and contrast VSW with similar roles in the human service industry, and to explore the rationale</p>	<p><b>Erin Wasson, MSW, RSW</b> <b>Western College of Veterinary Medicine</b></p> <p>Erin is a registered social worker from the University of Saskatchewan, Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). Prior to her role at the WCVM, she has worked clinically in a number of settings including: mental health, substance abuse, crisis response, interpersonal violence, trauma, disordered eating, geriatrics, disability, and youth work. Currently, her primary focus is on a One Health approach to social work practice. This approach is informed by the intersection of human beings, animals, and environment. Erin combines relational cultural theory with other practice theories and interventions to explore the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual experiences of clients. In 2014, Erin implemented the Veterinary Social Work services at the WCVM, the first of its kind in Canada. In this role, she provides services to clients of the Veterinary Medical Centre, as well as resources to staff, faculty, and students. Focusing on issues arising in the human and animal interface, Erin works to improve outcomes for animal owners, as well as veterinarians and allied</p>	

	for collaboration between the human service industry and animal sectors.	professions.	
Noon – 1 PM	Lunch break		
1 PM – 2 PM	<b>Working together: Steps, tools and processes to build and sustain effective intersectoral partnerships</b>	<b>Tracy Knutson, Provincial Coordinator, STOPS to Violence</b> As the Provincial Coordinator of Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence, Tracy Knutson understands the importance of partnerships and networks as a way to bring about change and growth. Tracy has worked primarily in the area of community and social development. She is a skilled facilitator and problem solver and strategic thinker who is able to build relationships with diverse individuals and groups to identify common visions, goals and action. She has served in leadership roles at local, provincial and national levels that have included a broad range of leadership, management, administrative and service delivery capacities.	<b>Session Outcome:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased understanding of steps, tools and processes to build and sustain effective intersectoral partnerships</li> </ul> <b>Target:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants</li> </ul>
2:00 - 2:30 PM	<b>Refreshment break</b>		
2:30 PM – 4 PM	<b>WORKING SESSION: Identifying Saskatchewan based resources and options, with an update on Animal Safekeeping in Saskatchewan</b>	<b>Tracy Knutson &amp; Leanne Sillers, BSW, RSW</b> <b>Animal Safekeeping Coordinator, Saskatchewan SPCA</b> In her new role as Animal Safekeeping Coordinator at the Saskatchewan SPCA, Leanne Sillers is exploring options to improve the safety of people and animals escaping situations involving interpersonal violence and abuse. A registered social worker with nearly a decade of experience in the field of domestic violence, Leanne Sillers has travelled across the province providing information on the “Link” as well researching community resources for the victims of domestic violence and their pets. Leanne has a 3-year-old golden retriever, Jack, who is a certified therapy dog. When she is not volunteering with Jack, Leanne enjoys spending time with family and friends.	<b>Session Outcome:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of Sask. based resources, assets and ways of working</li> <li>Co-creation of Sask based options and solutions</li> <li>Increased awareness of The Link project and work on animal safekeeping options in Sask</li> </ul> <b>Target:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants</li> </ul>
4 PM	<b>Conference close/wrap up</b>		